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MODERN HAUSA~ENGLISH DICTIONARY

SABON KAMUS
NA HAUSA
ZUWA TURANCI

Centre for the study of Nigerian Languages
Bayero University College
Kano

MODERN HAUSA-ENGLISH DICTIONARY

Compiled by

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Assisted by

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and

CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
NIGERIAN LANGUAGES
Bayero University College
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PREFACE

THE purpose in compiling this Hausa-English dictionary has been to meet the need for a modern, practical dictionary for use in Nigeria by Nigerians wishing to learn about one of the major languages of their country. It has been designed for native Hausa speakers who need guidance in matters of spelling, idiomatic usage, etc., as well as for speakers of other languages who are trying to improve their present knowledge of Hausa or who are just beginning to learn it.

The aim has been to provide a concise, compact, and readily usable dictionary. The selection of words has thus been limited to those words likely to occur in everyday conversation and in modern books, newspapers, and other mass media. The dictionary includes a large number of modern words recently adopted into Hausa, given in their approved form. For words not found in this dictionary—such as rare or archaic vocabulary, derived forms of basic words, or words limited to dialects other than the standard Hausa of the greater Kano area—one may consult either of the major reference dictionaries of Hausa: *A Hausa-English Dictionary* by G. P. Bargery (Oxford University Press, 1934), or *Dictionary of the Hausa Language*, second edition, by R. C. Abraham (University of London Press, 1962).

This dictionary was compiled by the Centre for the Study of Nigerian Languages, Bayero University-College, Kano, under the general editorship of Paul Newman and Roxana Ma Newman. Its preparation involved the combined efforts, over a period of years, of a large number of staff and affiliated members of the Centre. Among these were, principally, Ibrahim Yaro Yahaya and Linda Dresel, as well as Dandatti Abdulkadir, Haladu Alhaji, D. W. Arnott, Dauda Bagari, Gidado Bello, M. K. M. Galadanci, S. A. S. Galadanci, Maikudi Karaye, Isa Kurawa, Murtala Mohammed, Hassan Moturba, Dalhatu Muhammad, Ibrahim Mukoshy, K. Rayan, Bello Sa'id, Bello Salim, Russell G. Schuh, and Ahmadu Bello Zaria

The Centre is grateful to the Hausa [Language] Board for their guidance and suggestions in the selection and standardization of loanwords and to the Department of Islamic Studies,

àdùdù *n.m.* (pl. **àdùdai**) Large lidded basket made of grass.
àdùwà *n.f.* (pl. **àdùwoyi**) Desert date tree or its fruit.
af *excl.* Indicates surprise or sudden recollection.
àfà *v.t.* (vn. **àfi**) Throw (grain, groundnuts, etc.) into mouth without touching it.
àfi *n.m.* 1. Small handful of sth. (e.g. groundnuts or tobacco) thrown into the mouth. **dan** ~ a pinch of sth. 2. *vn.* of **àfà**.
àfil *n.m.* Appeal (legal).
àfītātū *n.m.* Type of cheap cotton thread.
Àfīlū *n.m.* April.
àfū *v.i.* Be eager, anxious: *ya ~ ya sami kudi* he is eager to get some money.
àga *n.f.* 1. Possessing a lot of sth.: *yana ~r karfi* he is very strong. 2. Becoming well known.
àgàdè *n.m.* Plantain(s).
àgàji *n.m.* 1. Help, assistance, rescue, relief. 2. *vn.* of **àgàzà**.
àgàna *n.f.* Smallpox.
àgàra *n.f.* Tendon in back part of ankle.
àgàzà (jī/je) *v.t.* (vn. **àgàji**) Help, assist, come to rescue of s.o.
àgogō *n.m.* (pl. **àgōgāi**, **àgōgūnā**) Clock, watch.
àgōlā *n.m.* (f. **àgōliya**, pl. **àgōlai**) Step-child (child of man's wife by her former husband).
àgūshi *n.m.* Melon seeds used for making soup.
Àgustā *n.m.* August.
àgwāgwā *n.f.* (pl. **àgwāgi**) Duck.
àgwāja *n.f.* Type of large *riga* with round neck and slit-like embroidery design.
àhāyē *excl.* Expression of pleasant joking between women, usu. followed by *ayyururui*.
àhō *n.m.* Used in *cittar* ~ ginger root.
ahū *n.m.* One and a half pence in old Nigerian currency.
àhūwā *n.f.* Leniency, pardon, mercy.
àhūwō *excl.* Greeting used by women on entering s.o. else's house or coming upon a group of people.

àl *excl.* Oh yes! Aha! Of course! Oh, I see!
ai *excl.* Well yes, but . . . , mind you . . . (used during long discussions).
aiḡāta *v.t.* Blame s.o.
aiḡū, **aiḡi** *n.m.* (pl. **aiḡobi**) Fault, blemish: *ba ni da ~ a cikin wannan magana* I am not to blame regarding this matter.
àidīn *n.m.* Iodine.
àika (i/e) *v.t.* (vn. **aiki**) Send s.o. (on errand). **aiḡā** *v.t.* (usu. with **dā**) Send sth.: *na ~ da kudi* I sent the money.
aiḡāce *v.t.* Work sth. out completely: *ya ~ gona* he completed the farm work; *ya ~ riga* he worked out the design on the gown.
aiḡāta *v.t.* Do, perform, act: *na ~ aikin da aka ba ni* I performed the task that was given me.
aiḡātau *n.m.* Small job given out to s.o. for wages (usu. farm work by men or grinding of corn by women).
aiḡe *n.m.* (pl. **aiḡe-aiḡe**) Errand.
aiki *n.m.* (pl. **ayyuka**, **aiḡāce-aiḡāce**) 1. Work, job, duty. 2. Activity, act.
ainjhi *n.m.* Essence, reality: *su ne ~n mutanen da na fada maka* those are the very people whom I was telling you about.
ainūn *adv.* Very, very much, truly.
ajālī *n.m.* 1. Fixed period of time, deadline, time limit. 2. Appointed end of one's life, fate, cause of death: *mota ce ~nsa* a car was the cause of his death.
ajāmī *n.m.* Hausa written in Arabic script.
ajāndā *n.f.* (pl. **ajāndu**) Agenda.
ajī *n.m.* (pl. **azuzuwā**, **ajūjūwā**) 1. Class or form (in school). 2. Class, category, group.
ajīyā *n.f.* (pl. **ajīyē-ajīyē**) Anything stored or deposited for safe-keeping. **ajīyā** *n.m.* A traditional title.
ajīyē *v.t.* 1. Put down or away. 2. Store, save, put in safe-keeping, deposit.
ajzi *n.m.* (f. **ajiza**, pl. **ajizai**) Man with his human weakness: *duk mutum ~ ne* every man is imperfect.

akā *impers. pro.* (rel. past tense subj.) They, one, it.
à *adv.* Continually, regularly, repeatedly.
akāifa *n.f.* (pl. **akāifu**) Fingernail, claw, talon.
akālā *n.f.* (pl. **akālai**) Lead-rope of camel.
akān *impers. pro.* (hab. tense subj.) They, one, it.
akāntā *n.m.* (pl. **akāntoci**) Accountant.
akāsi *n.m.* Opposite or reverse of sth.
akawāl, **akawāli** *n.m.* (f. **akawāla**, pl. **akawālai**) 1. Shiny black horse. 2. Smooth black-skinned person.
akawū *n.m.* (pl. **akawūnā**, **akawū-akawū**) Clerk.
akē *impers. pro.* (rel. cont. tense subj.) They, one, it.
akoko *n.m.* Grey-coloured baft (cloth).
akū *n.m.* or *f.* Parrot.
akul Here's a warning that if . . . : *~ na sake ganinka a nan, ka kuka da kanka* I'm warning you that if I see you here again, you'll have only yourself to blame.
akul *excl.* 1. Stop that! 2. (followed by rel. past) Don't . . . : *~ kika* je don't dare go!
akurki *n.m.* (pl. **akurkai**) Coop for keeping fowl.
akūshi *n.m.* (pl. **akūsa**) Black wooden bowl for food.
akūyā *n.f.* (pl. **akwaki**, **akwakai**) Goat.
akwai There is, there are: *~ kudi?* is there any money? *i*, ~ yes, there is.
akwatā *n.m.* (pl. **akwatunā**) Box, crate, trunk.
akwiyā *see* **akūyā**.
akallā *adv.* At least: *na ga mutane ~ sun kai dubu* I saw at least a thousand people.
alābē *n.m.* (pl. **alābai**) Leather wallet or purse.
alābo *n.m.* Yam or cassava flour.
al'adā *n.f.* (pl. **al'adu**) 1. Custom, habit, tradition. 2. Menstruation.
alādē *n.m.* (pl. **alādai**, **alādu**) Pig, boar.

alāikūm *see* **sālamū**.
al'ajābi *n.m.* (pl. **al'ajubā**) Surprise, wonder, miracle: *zuwa kan duniyar wata abin ~ ne* going to the moon is an amazing thing.
alāḡakāi *n.m.* Continually pestering or bothering s.o.: *ya zame mini ~ he* bothers me continually.
alālā *n.m.* Food made of beans mashed with palm oil and spices and wrapped in leaves or tinned.
alamā *n.f.* (pl. **alamomi**, **alamu**) 1. Sign, symbol. *~r carbi* large dividing bead in a string of prayer beads. 2. Indication, trace, piece of evidence: *ga ~ za a yi ruwa* it looks as if it may rain. 3. Road sign.
al'amāfi *n.m.* (pl. **al'amūfā**) Matter, business, affair: *wuyar ~ gare su* they are difficult to get along with.
alamta *v.t.* Mark or indicate sth.
alamtā *v.i.* Be marked or indicated.
Al'aḡshj *n.m.* The heavens (spiritual).
alatū *n.m.* Luxury item.
al'auḡā *n.f.* Private parts of body, esp. male.
alawā *n.f.* Any sweet made from sugar, honey, and/or fruit.
alāwayyō *n.m.* White calico cloth, shirting material.
alawūs *n.m.* 1. Monetary allowance. 2. Allowance of space, room to move. 3. Allowance of time: *ka ba ni ~ din kwana biyu kafin in gama aikin* give me two days' time to finish the work.
alāyayādi *n.m.* Oil from palm kernel.
alāyayāho *n.m.* Spinach.
albaḡās *n.f.* Leprosy: *~ ta bullo masa* he shows symptoms of leprosy.
albaḡā *n.f.* Blessing, prosperity, grace, gift from God: *kasa mai ~ fertile*, productive soil. *excl.* No! (in bargaining, used by seller to reject an offer).
albaḡkaci *n.m.* Good fortune or benefit enjoyed through s.o. else's grace or influence: *ya sami ~na* he benefited through my kindness.